Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Please delete the blank page of the original application which follows Claim 14 and bears the number -18-, and renumber Page -19- as Page -18-. Applicants hereby state that this application as filed contains and was intended to contain only 14 claims, that the blank page originally numbered -18- was included through an oversight and that the application as filed was complete, no portion thereof having been omitted.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling the fuel supply to a fuel cell system comprising at least one fuel cell, in which power withdrawn from the fuel cell and provided to a consuming device is repetitively switched on during a switched-on interval and switched off during a pause interval, via an electric connection between the fuel cell and the consuming device, as a function of currently available fuel in the fuel cell relative to a power demand from said consuming device, wherein said method comprises:

generating a feedback signal indicative of a pause-to-switch-on ratio between a duration of said pause interval and a duration of said switched-on interval of said electric connection;

adjusting a rate at which ~~controlling a quantity of~~ fuel is supplied to the fuel cell system as a function of said feedback signal, ~~a pause-to-switch-on ratio between a duration of said pause interval and a duration of said switched-on interval of said electric connection,~~ such that an actual value of the pause to switch-on ratio is regulated to conform to a preset target value of the pause to switch-on ratio.

Claim 2. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the preset target value of the pause-to-switch-on ratio is less than approximately P/E = 10% / 90%.

Claim 3. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the quantity of fuel is supplied to a gas generating system in which a hydrogen-containing gas is generated for operation of the fuel cell.

Claim 4. (Cancelled)

Claim 5. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the quantity of supplied fuel is selected such that the quantity of fuel offered to the fuel cell or of hydrogen-containing gas generated from the

fuel is always smaller than a quantity of fuel or of hydrogen – containing gas generated from the fuel, which can be converted by the fuel cell.

Claim 6. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein a PID control is used for controlling the quantity of supplied fuel.

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein:

a new quantity of supplied fuel is determined at least from the product of a previous quantity of supplied fuel and a correction factor; and

the correction factor includes at least the target value and actual values of the pause-to-switch-on ratio (P/E).

Claim 8. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 7, wherein the correction factor is the sum of one plus the difference between the preset target value and a current actual value of the pause-to-switch-on ratio.

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 7, wherein:

the product also includes a damping factor which is between 0.1 and 1; and

in the case of a first actual value of the pause-to-switch-on ratio, the damping factor is smaller than in the case of a second actual value of the pause to switch-on ratio, which second actual value is larger than said first actual value.

Claim 10. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the fuel cell system is a mobile fuel cell system.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling operation of ~~a fuel cell in~~ a fuel cell system, said method comprising:

regulating a power output of said fuel cell system by repeatedly opening and closing a connection between an output of said fuel cell and an electrical load; [[and]]

generating a feedback signal indicative of an open/close ratio between an amount of time when said connection is open and an amount of time when said connection is closed during said repeated opening and closing; and

~~controlling a flow of~~ adjusting a rate of fuel flow to said fuel cell system as a function of said feedback signal. ~~an open/close ratio of said connection, said open/close ratio being a ratio of an amount of time when~~

~~said connection is open and an amount of time when said connection is closed during said repeated opening and closing.~~

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 11, wherein said ~~controlling~~ adjusting step comprises performing closed loop control of said ~~flow of~~ fuel flow rate, using a negative feedback process, based on a difference between an actual value of said open/close ratio and a target value of said open/close ratio, such that said actual value conforms to said target value.

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 12, wherein:

the quantity of supplied fuel is ~~controlled~~ adjusted such that a new fuel quantity is determined at least from the product of a previous fuel quantity and a correction factor; and

the correction factor includes at least the target value and actual values of the ~~pause-to-switch-on~~ open/close ratio. [[(P/E).]]

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 13, wherein the correction factor is the sum of one plus the difference between the target value and the actual value of the pause-to-switch-on ratio.